

I was appalled to hear that one company has the power to reach many millions of households through various stations, and intends to use that power to smear one of the presidential candidates. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is a glaring example of the dangers of allowing media consolidation.

Since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies such as Sinclair control the airwaves, we run the risk that their own selfish interests are being served at the cost of democracy. It's crucial (especially before an election) that the public receive more substantive news about issues that matter, and that we can trust that we are shown all sides of an issue.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. They show why the license renewal process needs to improve. Thank you.